

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for controlling capabilities of a user software application, the user software application including one or more disabled operations, the method comprising:~~

~~receiving content capable of being operated on by an operation of the one or more disabled operations;~~

receiving application rights information in a software application, the software application implementing a first operation that is disabled by default, the application rights information including a first enabler that specifies to the software application an enablement of the first operation only with respect to a first content that is explicitly related to associated with the received content, the application rights information; being operable to enable an operation of the one or more disabled operations to operate on the received content within a context specified in the application rights information; and

receiving the first content in the software application, the first content being unrestricted in its usage by content-specific rights information; and

enabling the first operation of the one or more disabled operations to operate on the received first content within an operating context specified in the application rights information as a result of receiving the application rights information.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the application rights information and the first content are received together.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the first content is content of an electronic document and the application rights information is embedded in the document.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the application rights information and the first content are received separately.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first content is content of an electronic document and wherein enabling the first operation comprises enabling operations in the set of disabled operations include one or more of:

adding content to the document, adding comments to the document, applying a digital signature to the document, saving the document, performing spell-check of the document, importing form data, exporting form data, submitting document data to the Internet outside a browser environment, and inserting new pages from a template.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the document is a PDF document.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first content is content of an electronic document and the application rights information is embedded in the document.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising unpacking the application rights information from the document.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the operating context specified in the application rights information includes one or more of:

a particular document, a particular type of document, a particular data set, a particular type of data set, a particular computer, a particular set of computers, a particular user, a particular set of users, a particular session, a particular number of sessions, a particular time period, a

particular content provider, and a particular document in a particular state.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the particular state of the particular document in a particular state is defined by a user.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the application rights information explicitly ~~related to~~ associated with the received first content is different for different operating contexts.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising saving the application rights information on a computer hosting the ~~computer~~ software application.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the application rights information comprises:

querying a database for application rights information that is explicitly ~~related to~~ associated with the received first content; and
receiving the application rights information from the database in response to the query.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first content has one or more associated permissions restricting what operations can be performed on the first content even if the operations to be restricted are operations that are enabled by default or operations that are disabled by default but enabled by the application rights information.

15. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for providing content to be operated on by a user software application~~, comprising:

generating a first content in a format compatible with a ~~user~~ software application that implements a first operation that is disabled by default, the first content being unrestricted in its usage by content-specific rights information; ~~the user software application including one or~~

~~more disabled operations;~~

generating application rights information including a first enabler that specifies to the software application an enablement of the first operation only with respect to the first content that is explicitly related to the generated content, the application rights information being operable to enable an operation of the one or more disabled operations to operate on the generated content within a an operating context specified in the application rights information; and

distributing the first content and the application rights information to one or more users.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising explicitly ~~relating~~ associating the ~~generated~~ application rights information with the ~~generated~~ first content.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising monitoring one or more of:

to how many users the application rights information is distributed, the operations enabled for each user, the context in which the operations are enabled for each user, and the number of enabled operations performed by users to whom the first content and application rights have been distributed.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising providing an accounting to a user software application provider based on one or more of:

the number of users to which the application rights information has been distributed, the operations enabled for each user, the context in which the operations are enabled for each user, and the number of enabled operations performed by users to whom the first content and application rights have been distributed.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising providing an accounting to a ~~user~~ software application provider based on the operating context specified in the

application rights information distributed to the users.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the first content is content of an electronic document and wherein ~~the step of associating comprises embedding~~ the application rights information is embedded in the document.

21. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for providing a configurable, context-dependent user software application~~, comprising:

(a) providing a user software application, the user software application implementing a first operation that is disabled by default; ~~including one or more disabled operations, the user software application being operable to enable an operation of the one or more disabled operations to operate on content based on application rights information;~~

(b) providing a content generation tool, the content generation tool being operable to:
generate a first content in a format compatible with the ~~user~~ software application, the first content being unrestricted in its usage by content-specific rights information; and
generate application rights information that is explicitly ~~related to~~ associated with the ~~generated~~ first content, wherein the application rights information including a first enabler that specifies to the software application an enablement of the first operation only with respect to the first content; ~~is operable to cause the user software application to enable an operation of the one or more disabled operations to operate the generated content;~~

(c) distributing the ~~user~~ software application to one or more users; and

(d) distributing the content generation tool to one or more content providers for use in generating content and application rights information to be distributed to one or more of the users.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the content generation tool further is operable to explicitly ~~relate~~ associate the ~~generated~~ application rights information with

the ~~generated~~ first content.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the ~~application rights information~~ first enabler specifies to ~~is operable to cause the user~~ software application to enable the first ~~the~~ operation within a an operating context specified in the application rights information.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising receiving information from a content provider about one or more of:

the number of users to which the application rights information has been distributed, the operations enabled for each user, the context in which the operations are enabled for each user, and the number of enabled operations performed by users to whom the first content and application rights have been distributed.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising receiving an accounting from a content provider based on one or more of:

the number of users to which the application rights information has been distributed, the operations enabled for each user, the context in which the operations are enabled for each user, and the number of enabled operations performed by users to whom the first content and application rights have been distributed.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein providing a ~~user~~ software application further comprises:

providing an application rights management module in the ~~user~~ software application, the application rights management module being operable to:

detect whether a an operating context exists in which the first operation has ~~one or more operations have~~ been made available; and

~~instruct the user software application to enable~~ the first ~~the~~ operation within the

operating context; and

wherein distributing the ~~user~~ software application further comprises:

distributing the application rights management module to one or more of the users.

27. (Currently Amended) A ~~user~~ software application, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, the ~~user~~ software application ~~including one or more disabled operations and~~ comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

~~receive content capable of being operated on by an operation of the one or more disabled operations;~~

receive application rights information in a software application, the software application implementing a first operation that is disabled by default, the application rights information including a first enabler that specifies to the software application an enablement of the first operation only with respect to a first content that is explicitly related to associated with the received content, the application rights information; being operable to enable an operation of the one or more disabled operations to operate on the received content within a context specified in the application rights information; and

receive the first content in the software application, the first content being unrestricted in its usage by content-specific rights information;

enable the first the operation of the one or more disabled operations to operate on the received first content within an operating context specified in the application rights information as a result of receiving the application rights information.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~user~~ software application of claim 27, wherein the application rights information and the first content are received together.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~user~~ software application of claim 28, wherein the first content is content of an electronic document and the application rights information is embedded

in the document.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~user~~ software application of claim 29, further comprising instructions to unpack the application rights information from the document.

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~user~~ software application of claim 27, wherein the application rights information and the first content are received separately.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~user~~ software application of claim 27, wherein the first content is content of an electronic document and wherein the instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to enable the first operation comprise instructions to enable the operations in the set of disabled operations include one or more of:

adding content to the document, adding comments to the document, applying a digital signature to the document, saving the document, performing spell-check of the document, importing form data, exporting form data, submitting document data to the Internet outside a browser environment, and inserting new pages from template.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~user~~ software application of claim 32, wherein the document is a PDF document.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~user~~ software application of claim 27, wherein the operating context specified in the application rights information includes one or more of:

a particular document, a particular type of document, a particular data set, a particular type of data set, a particular computer, a particular set of computers, a particular user, a particular set of users, a particular session, a particular number of sessions, a particular time period, a particular content provider, and a particular document in a particular state.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~user~~ software application of claim 34, wherein the particular state of the particular document in a particular state is defined by a user.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~user~~ software application of claim 27, wherein the application rights information explicitly ~~related to~~ associated with the ~~received~~ first content is different for different operating contexts.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~user~~ software application of claim 27, further comprising instructions to save the application rights information on a computer hosting the user software application.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~user~~ software application of claim 27, wherein the instructions to receive application rights information comprises instructions to:

query a database for application rights information that is explicitly ~~related to~~ associated with the ~~received~~ first content; and

receive the application rights information from the database in response to the query.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~user~~ software application of claim 27, wherein the first content has one or more associated permissions restricting what operations can be performed on the first content even if the operations to be restricted are operations that are enabled by default or operations that are disabled by default but enabled by the application rights information.

40. (Currently Amended) A content provider software application, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, ~~including a set of disabled operations and~~ comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

generate a first content in a format compatible with a ~~user~~ software application that implements a first operation that is disabled by default, the first content being unrestricted in its usage by content-specific rights information; and, the user software application including one or

~~more disabled operations; and~~

generate application rights information including a first enabler that specifies to the software application an enablement of the first operation only with respect to the first content that is explicitly related to the generated content, the application rights information being operable to enable an operation of the one or more disabled operations to operate on the generated content within a an operating context specified in the application rights information.

41. (Currently Amended) The content provider software application of claim 40, further comprising instructions operable to explicitly ~~relate~~ associate the ~~generated~~ application rights information with the ~~generated~~ first content.

42. (Currently Amended) The content provider software application of claim 40, further comprising instructions operable to monitor one or more of:

to how many users the application rights information is distributed, the operations enabled for each user, the context in which the operations are enabled for each user, and the number of enabled operations performed by users to whom the first content and application rights have been distributed..

43. (Currently Amended) The content provider software application of claim 40, further comprising instructions operable to provide an accounting to a ~~user~~ software application provider based on one or more of:

the number of users to which the application rights information has been distributed, the operations enabled for each user, and the context in which the operations are enabled for each user.

44. (Currently Amended) The content provider software application of claim 40, further comprising instructions operable to provide an accounting to a ~~user~~ software application provider based on the operating context specified in the application rights information distributed to the

users.

45. (Currently Amended) The content provider software application of claim 40, wherein the first content is content of an electronic document and wherein the instructions to associate comprise instructions to embed the application rights information in the document.

46. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for providing a configurable, context-dependent user software application,~~ comprising:

(a) means for providing a user software application, the user software application implementing a first operation that is disabled by default; including one or more disabled operations, the user software application being operable to enable an operation of the one or more disabled operations to operate on content based on application rights information;

(b) means for providing a content generation tool, the content generation tool being operable to:

generate a first content in a format compatible with the user software application, the first content being unrestricted in its usage by content-specific rights information; and

generate application rights information including a first enabler that specifies to the software application an enablement of the first operation only with respect to the first content; that is explicitly related to the generated content, wherein the application rights information is operable to cause the user software application to enable an operation of the one or more disabled operations to operate on the generated content;

(c) means for distributing the user software application to one or more users; and

(d) means for distributing the content generation tool to one or more content providers for use in generating the first content and the application rights information to be distributed to one or more of the users.

47. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46, wherein the content generation tool further is operable to explicitly ~~relate~~ associate the ~~generated~~ application rights information with

the ~~generated~~ first content.

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46, wherein the ~~application rights information~~ first enabler specifies to is operable to cause the user software application to enable the first the operation within a an operating context specified in the application rights information.

49. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46, further comprising means for receiving information from a content provider about one or more of:

the number of users to which the application rights information has been distributed, the operations enabled for each user, the context in which the operations are enabled for each user, and the number of enabled operations performed by users to whom the first content and application rights have been distributed.

50. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46, further comprising means for receiving an accounting from a content provider based on one or more of:

the number of users to which the application rights information has been distributed, the operations enabled for each user, the context in which the operations are enabled for each user, and the number of enabled operations performed by users to whom the first content and application rights have been distributed.

51. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46, wherein the means for providing a ~~user~~ software application further comprises:

means for providing an application rights management module in the ~~user~~ software application, the application rights management module being operable to:

detect whether a an operating context exists in which the first operation has one or ~~more disabled operations have~~ been made available; and

~~instruct the user software application to~~ enable the first operation within the operating context; and

wherein the means for distributing the ~~user~~ software application further comprises:
means for distributing the application rights management module to one or more
of the users.

52. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for providing and using configurable, context-dependent user software application~~, comprising:

(a) providing a user software application that implements a first operation that is disabled by default; including one or more disabled operations;

(b) providing a content generation tool, the content generation tool being operable to generate content and application rights information; ~~that is explicitly related to the generated content in a format compatible with the user software application;~~

(c) distributing the ~~user~~ software application to one or more users;

(d) distributing the content generation tool to one or more content providers;

(e) generating content in a format compatible with ~~a user~~ the software application, the generated content being unrestricted in its usage by content-specific rights information and capable of being operated on by ~~an the first operation of the one or more disabled operations;~~

(f) generating application rights information that is explicitly ~~related to~~ associated with the generated content, the application rights information including a first enabler that specifies to the software application an enablement of the first operation only with respect to the generated content being operable to enable an operation of the one or more disabled operations to operate on the generated content within a an operating context specified in the application rights information;

(g) distributing the generated content and the generated application rights information ~~that is explicitly related to the generated content~~ to one or more users;

(h) receiving the generated content;

(i) receiving the generated application rights information; ~~that is explicitly related to the generated content;~~

(j) enabling the first ~~the operation of the one or more disabled operations~~ to operate only

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on the generated content; and

(k) performing the enabled operation on the generated content using the ~~user~~ software application.